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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : KITAMURA et al.  
PCT No : PCT/JP2004/017351  
Filed : June 1, 2006  
For : HINGE DEVICE  
Dated : June 1, 2006

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: